

# ***NEWS***

*From the Office of*

## **Brad Mitzelfelt**

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### **County, Barstow Agree on Funding for Lenwood Road Rail Overpass**

SAN BERNARDINO – The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today approved an agreement between the County, the City of Barstow and San Bernardino Associated Governments to provide funding for the design and approval of the Lenwood Road bridge over the BNSF Railway in Barstow.

“The Lenwood Road bridge is a high priority project that will spur much-needed economic development in the Barstow area, while also improving traffic flow and safety,” said First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt. “This is a time when agencies and jurisdictions need to work together to keep projects moving forward and I’m gratified the County was able to step up with additional funding to avoid delays.”

Lenwood Road is an important link between Interstate 15 and Highway 58, and is a strategic location for development of warehouse and distribution centers. The project would construct a bridge on Lenwood Road over the railroad tracks.

The total cost of the design, environmental review and approval process is expected to be \$4,159,000. The project is half in the City of Barstow and half in the unincorporated County area. The design cost is being covered with \$938,108 from Measure I (the County’s half-cent sales tax for transportation) and the balance of \$3,223,900 was to be split evenly between the County and Barstow. The total estimated cost of the project is \$34 million.

Barstow paid \$723,900 to hire URS Corporation to begin the work. Under the agreement approved today, the County will cover Barstow’s remaining share of project design and environmental review in the amount of \$888,000. The project was also awarded \$6.3 million from Proposition 1B, the \$20 billion transportation bond approved by state voters in 2006, but those funds can only be used for construction. To qualify for the state bond funds, the project must be under construction by 2013 so keeping the project moving is critical.